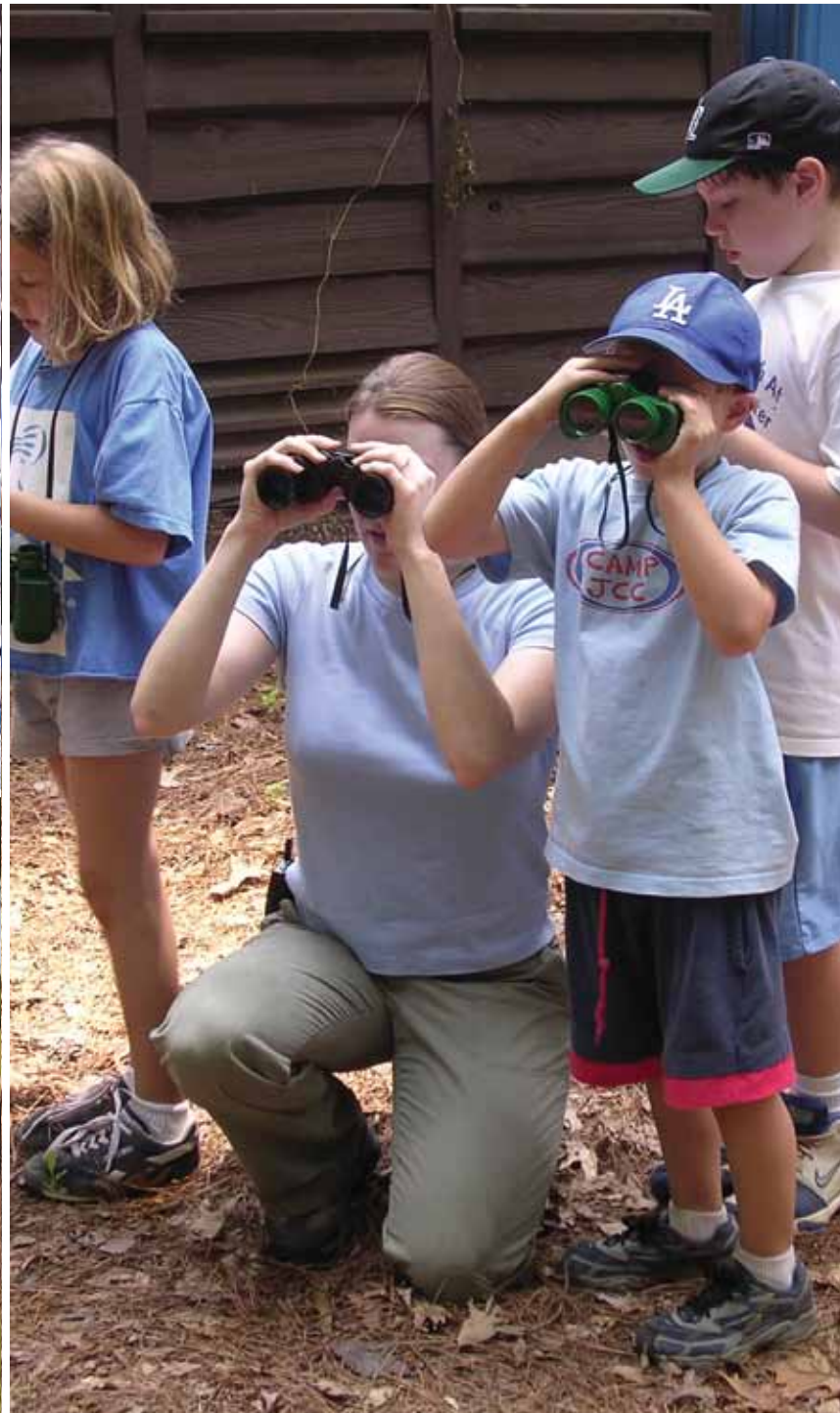


RALEIGH PARKS AND RECREATION
2012-2013 Annual Report

919-996-3285 | parks.raleighnc.gov



Letter from the Director



It is my pleasure to present the 2012-2013 Parks and Recreation Department (RPRD) Annual Report highlighting our many significant accomplishments over the past year, projects that are the direct result of tremendous support from the citizens of Raleigh and many with cooperative partnerships from non-profit, private and government organizations.

Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department plays a leading role in determining the quality of life and character of the Capital City. With over 9,700 acres of parkland and

100 miles of greenway trails the department actively provides and protects parks, open space and greenway that significantly contribute to the strong quality of life Raleigh citizens enjoy. In addition, over 1.4M square feet of unique facility space allows creative programming opportunities that promote social, cultural, mental, and physical well-being of citizens.

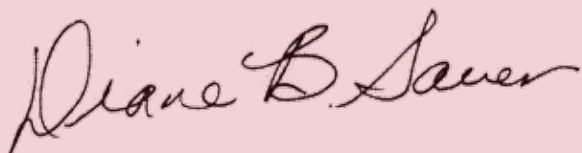
Raleigh is now considered one of the fastest growing cities in the United States. With this growth also comes change in citizen interests, needs and desires for Parks and Recreation services. Citizen driven initiatives and trends over the past several years have led to a realignment and expansion of resources within the department that focus on cultural and natural resources. The Cultural Resources section now houses the Raleigh Arts office and the Historic Resource and Museum program. These dedicated resources allow the department to foster, support and promote the arts as well as protect identified historical and museum resource facilities, programs and assets within the City of Raleigh. Recently, "Nature Preserve" was added as a park classification and based upon specific

criteria four City parks were classified as Nature Preserve Parks. These parks provide unique opportunities associated with maintenance, management and citizen education. The department has developed a Natural Resources section to better manage and promote these valuable assets.

In an effort to identify and plan for the changing needs of the community, the department is currently in the process of developing a System Plan that will shape the direction, development, and delivery of the City's parks, open space, recreation services and greenways over the next 20 years. This five-part process, that began in fall 2012, includes extensive public participation opportunities based upon the Department's adopted Public Participation Policy and Guidelines, and is led by a 22 citizen member planning committee. The overwhelming citizen response has already labeled the plan as the "the People's Plan". For this we truly thank you and encourage continued involvement!

In closing, I would like to sincerely thank the Raleigh City Council and the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board who without their continued and unwavering support these accomplishments would not have been possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane B. Sauer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Diane B. Sauer

Director

Parks Greenway Advisory Board Chair Letter



The Raleigh Parks, Recreation, and Greenway Advisory Board (PRGAB) serves as the official citizen advisory board to the City Council on issues related to parks, greenway and recreation policy matters. The Board advises on matters related to the funding of the parks and recreation capital program, parks and recreation program policies, facility planning, and the acquisition of lands related to the parks and recreation program. The 15-member Board serves as a liaison between the City and the citizens of the community and also works to promote parks and recreation programs.

The year 2012 was another productive and memorable year for the PRGAB, with a number of highlights:

- The opening of the Buffalo Road Aquatic Center: Raleigh's first aquatic center in twenty years
- The opening of the Five Points Center for Active Adults, Anne Gordon Center for Active Adults at Millbrook Exchange Park, and the Hill Street Neighborhood Park: three beautiful new facilities that will serve our citizens for years to come
- The beautiful renovations of both the Jaycee and Carolina Pines community centers
- Beautiful renovations and a proud new home for the John Chavis Memorial Carousel

- The addition of the Historic Resources and Museum Advisory Board under the Parks and Recreation umbrella
- Miles and miles of new greenways, with Neuse River and House Creek segments adding connectivity across not just our city, but across Wake County and beyond!

Notable among the PRGAB's work is the review of a new Waterfowl Management Plan and a policy for Greenway Usage for Special Events. The PRGAB also participated in the Parks and Recreation System Plan; the Chavis Park Community Conversations Master Plan Amendment; the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Garden Master Plan; the Mordecai Historic Park Interpretive Center plans; the Lake Johnson Park Center plans; the Southeast Raleigh Tennis Center plans; the Dr. Annie Louise Wilkerson, MD Nature Preserve Park Management Plan and Phase 2 plans; the Dix and CASL Soccer Field Renovation plans; the Barwell Road and Sierra Drive System Integration Plans; and more. Lastly, PRGAB once again honored the many thousands of Parks and Recreation volunteers through our annual Fred Fletcher Volunteer Awards ceremony. Whew!

It has been a pleasure serving as your Parks board chair. My fellow PRGAB members and I thank our city leadership; our outstanding Parks and Recreation staff; the many thousands of parks volunteers; and you, the public, for all that you do to nurture and grow our world-class parks system.

See you in the park!

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Turner', with a stylized, flowing script.

Mark Turner

Chair, Raleigh Parks, Recreation, and Greenway Advisory Board.

Parks and Recreation System Plan:

The People's Plan to Guide Parks and Recreation Services over the next 20 years

In the fall of 2012 the Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department began an 18 month, city-wide process to develop a new Parks and Recreation System Plan. The System Plan is a comprehensive report that will shape the direction, development and delivery of the city's parks, greenway and recreation services over the next 20 years. An adopted system plan is expected in spring 2014.

The System Plan process is broken into five parts:

PART 1 – Existing Systems Analysis: Part 1 took a snapshot of the current conditions of the Parks and Recreation System as whole. Information reviewed included visiting 81 parks properties and 33 sections of greenway trails, existing plans, studies, demographic, market, and geographic. This information provides a baseline to analyze the system as it currently exists. Part 1 was completed in January 2013.

PART 2 – Needs and Priorities Assessment: Part 2 began in January, public outreach initiatives and participation opportunities included;

- 19 Focus Groups with over 200 participants
- 11 Interviews with City Council and city staff
- 4 Community Meetings and 1 Teen Workshop with 200 participants
- 4 basketball league nights outreaching to over 200 participants
- 30+ presentations to boards, commissions, Citizen Advisory Councils (CAC), and other interest groups
- 7,000 unique visitors and 34,000 page views on the www.YourParksYourFuture.com website
- 1962 Online Surveys completed
- 802 Citizen Opinion and Interest Surveys completed





This three month process resulted in face to face interactions with an estimated 1,000 citizens of Raleigh, causing the project consultant AECOM to title the plan, “The People’s Plan”. The information gathered from the public in Part 2 will provide the framework for Part 3, the Long Range Vision.

PART 3 – Long Range Vision: The research of Part 1 and the public input of Part 2 provided the foundation for planning the next twenty years for Parks and Recreation in the Long Range Vision. The Long Range Vision was developed in part through a five-day Visioning Workshop held for May 13-17, 2013. The workshop involved the Planning Committee, city staff, focus groups, other stakeholders, and the general public. The Long Range Vision included goals, policies, and objectives for the future parks system. This portion will also includes development of Capital Area Greenway System Design Guidelines and Standards.

PART 4 – Implementation/Action Plan: The Implementation and Action plan will include text, maps, and drawings, as well as recommendations and strategies for service delivery, facility development, and projected capital improvement program costs needed as they were identified in the Long Range Vision.

PART 5 – Parks and Recreation System Plan: Part 5 will compile all the work completed into a draft Parks and Recreation System Plan Document. Part 5 will be heavily focused on public participation with review of the draft System Plan by community meetings, the RCAC, stakeholders, city staff, and Planning Committee and Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board. The draft plan will also be available for review online through Mindmixer. The draft System Plan will become the official guiding document for the next twenty years of Parks and Recreation once it is presented to City Council for adoption in spring 2014.

Parks and Recreation Funding

FY 12-13 Adopted Budget

The Parks and Recreation Department's Fiscal year 2013 budget represents 12.5% of the City of Raleigh's total General Fund budget of \$383,571,703.

The Department's Capital Improvement Program budget for FY 13 is \$13M, which includes \$7.3M in two-thirds general obligation bonds and \$3.5M in transportation bonds earmarked for park and greenway projects.

NCHSAA 2013

The Department has hosted championship events for the NC High School Amateur Athletic association since 1992. In FY 11-12, twelve championship events were hosted with an economic impact estimated to be in excess of \$3.2 million.

Did you know Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department has:

9764 Acres of Parkland

100 Miles of Greenway

850 Acres of Nature Preserve

112 Tennis Courts

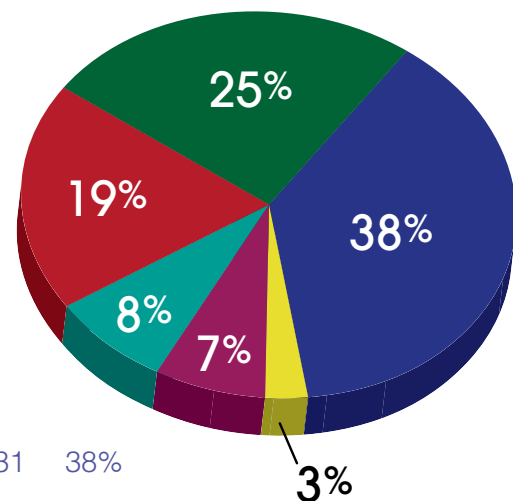
9 Aquatic Facilities

62 Ball Fields

68 Playground Locations

40 Staffed Facilities

6 Historic Sites



Where It Goes

• Recreation Facilities & Programming	19,856,431	38%
• Parks/Grounds Maintenance	13,183,958	25%
• Facility Maintenance	10,053,087	19%
• Cultural Resources	3,952,355	8%
• Support Services	3,605,813	7%
• Design and Development	1,524,704	3%
Total	52,176,348	100%

Grants

In FY13 the Department managed 18 grants with awards totaling \$21,246,594. Fifteen of these awards were for grants with life cycles covering several fiscal years. Three of these awards are program grants which are awarded on a fiscal year basis. To date \$16,262,990 has been received in revenues or 77% of the awards. It is anticipated the majority of these grants will be closed by June 30, 2013. The larger awards were construction and acquisition grants related to the Neuse River Greenway Trail. Currently there are four pending grant applications totaling \$1,201,185.

Grants Awarded FY2013		Project Description
JCPC	\$99,100	Grant received from North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and Wake County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC), engages youth in a service continuum designed to serve high risk and gang involved youth in after-school recreation and summer enrichment programming.
Allstate	\$25,000	Grant received from the Allstate Foundation for the Raleigh Youth Council Teen Safe Driving Initiative, promoting behaviors and attitudes in teen drivers that will reduce risk behaviors when operating motor vehicles.
Wake County Human Services	\$110,000	This is an agreement which has been in place for many years between Wake County and City of Raleigh for us to provide recreational opportunities for children with disabilities, and continuing to move to a more inclusive environment.
Total	\$234,100	

Dedications and Groundbreakings

July 24, 2012	Jaycee Community Center Renovation
September 13, 2012	Five Points Center for Active Adults
September 24, 2012	House Creek Greenway Trail
October 1, 2012	Buffaloe Road Aquatic Center
October 23, 2012	Raleigh City Museum
November 1, 2012	Anne Gordon Center for Active Adults
January 9, 2013	Hill Street Park and Neighborhood Center
April 20, 2013	John Chavis Memorial Park Historic Carousel
April 25, 2013	Neuse River Greenway Trail

Jaycee Community Center

July 24, 2012

The Jaycee Community Center was originally opened in February 1961. The nearly 27,000 square foot mid-century building housed a gymnasium, kitchen, weight room, game room, meeting room, restrooms, locker rooms, offices, and storage. The community center sits at the edge of a 25-acre park and is adjacent to the P&R department's Recreation administration buildings.

Funding for the renovation and expansion of the existing community center was approved by voters in the 2007 Parks and Greenway Bond Referendum.

The objectives for the project are to:

1. Maximize energy efficiency by use of "green" technology.
2. Maximize rooms' size and shape so as to create more opportunities for flexible programming and rental space.
3. Optimize existing buildings' infrastructure expansion.
4. Modify existing buildings' shortcomings to optimize overall use.

Construction was completed in May 2011, just in time for Summer Camp occupancy. Improvements include a new weight room, and a new large meeting room, replacement of the exterior window/metal wall assemblies, upgrade of the locker rooms to ADA compliance, renovation of the building's entrance and reception desk, replacement of the gym flooring with sports court, conditioning of the gym, and kitchen remodel.

The Jaycee Community Center renovation and expansion recently won the Sir Walter Raleigh Award for Community Appearance in the institutional category.

Five Points Center for Active Adults

September 3, 2012

The Five Points Center for Active Adults is a "first" of many sorts for the City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department. It is the first LEED certified building in the Raleigh Parks system earning a rating of GOLD in February 2013. It is also the City's first Active Adult Center. What is an "Active Adult Center"? An Active Adult Center focuses on providing recreation programming opportunities for adults over the age of 50 years old. Raleigh has one of the fastest growing populations of retiring and older adults. The Five Points Center is centrally located inside the beltline on Noble Road. This center will provide adults with the opportunity to continue an active and healthy lifestyle.

Funded by the 2007 bond referendum the Five Points Center for Active Adults contains an art studio, commercial kitchen, computer lab, multi-purpose room, fitness room and aerobics studio. While the City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department provided the leadership and funding for the project. The success of the center is the result of a partnership between the City of Raleigh, Wake County Government, Meals on Wheels and Resources for Seniors.

Dedications and Groundbreakings

House Creek Greenway September 24, 2012

The House Creek Greenway Trail was dedicated on September 24, 2012. The trail extends approximately 2.9 miles and completes a vital connection between the Walnut Creek watershed and the Crabtree Creek watershed. The southern end of the trail begins near the eastern end of the pedestrian bridge over I-440



and extends north to the Crabtree Creek Trail at the intersection of Blue Ridge Road and Crabtree Valley Boulevard. In addition, a connector from the intersection of Wade Avenue and Ridge Road provides additional trail access for the residents of this area. Two pedestrian underpasses beneath Lake Boone Trail and Glen Eden Drive provide users with a trail experience that minimizes vehicle conflicts. The route provides residents easier and more direct access to Umstead State Park, the North Carolina Art Museum, Meredith College, and NC State University.

Buffaloe Road Aquatic Center October 1, 2012

With funding of \$8 million allocated in the 2007 Parks Bond Program for design and construction, the City Council authorized the Parks and Recreation Department to move forward with a Master Plan Amendment process for Buffaloe Road Athletic Park. The purpose of the amendment was to site a new regional aquatics facility in the Athletic Park. This action was recommended in the Comprehensive Aquatics Study report published in January 2008.

During the Master Plan Amendment process, public comments concerning the proposed changes to the existing Master Plan were solicited in order to accommodate the aquatic facility. The Amendment process also included review by the City's Parks Recreation



and Greenway Advisory Board, and final approval from the City Council on June 17, 2008.

Construction was complete in summer 2012. The nearly 20,000 square foot new recreational leisure pool facility includes a water slide, vortex, lazy river, lap lanes, zero depth entry, tot-sized play features, volleyball net, basketball hoops, offices, concession and lockers and showers.

The project team is currently pursuing LEED silver certification. Main sustainable features include solar-heated domestic hot water, green roof, regenerative media filter, UV light disinfectant, variable frequency pump drives, and LED parking lot lights.

Raleigh City Museum October 23, 2012

City of Raleigh made history on October 23, 2012 when it took over operation of the Raleigh City Museum, located on Fayetteville Street. The evening brought together museum supporters, City Council Members, and historic-minded citizens to usher in a new era in the 20 year old museum. In June 2012, the Raleigh City Council authorized the City assuming responsibility for day-to-day operations of the museum. The agreement establishes the ongoing relationship between the City

and the Raleigh City Museum non-profit organization. The non-profit had operated the museum since its creation in 1993. The agreement provided for the transfer of the exhibits, collections and other assets to the City. The primary continuing function of the non-profit will be as a fundraising partner for the museum.

The museum was renamed the City of Raleigh Museum (COR Museum) and is operating as a facility of the City of Raleigh's Parks and Recreation Department. During the past few months, the museum underwent remodeling to create a new visitor experience. The museum now includes a new lobby area for temporary exhibits, presentations, rentals and programs, and a new gift shop that separates the lobby from the permanent gallery. The City of Raleigh has hired Ernest Dollar to serve as the director of the COR Museum. Dollar plans to develop new technology based educational programs for children and adults, as well as, new interactive exhibits that brings the city's history to life.

Dedications and Groundbreakings



Anne Gordon Center for Active Adults November 1, 2012

A key recommendation from the City's Senior Center Feasibility Study outlined the need for the Parks and Recreation Department to continue its focus on a decentralized approach to providing services to older adults. The Anne Gordon Center for Active Adults at Millbrook Exchange Park is a result of this focus. This new facility serves as smaller but full service satellite location for active adult programming in northeast Raleigh in Millbrook Exchange Park on Spring Forest Road.

Named for a long time senior adult programming staff member, the Anne Gordon Center contains a large and small multi-purpose rooms, kitchen, staff offices and outdoor sitting area. Since the Anne Gordon Center is located in Millbrook Exchange Park, the center is in close proximity to the Millbrook pool, gymnasium, tennis center, dog park and athletic fields. The center and its

location provide visitors with a campus of recreational opportunities. The center is wired with Wi-Fi and a full range of technology and audio video equipment.

Hill Street Park and Neighborhood Center January 9, 2013

Hill Street Park is a mostly wooded, 16-acre site located in east central Raleigh. The City purchased the park in 1973 through the Land & Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) program administered by the National Park Service.

Funding of approximately 2.2 million was included in the 2003 Parks Bond Program for the development of Hill Street Park.

In 2007, Raleigh Parks and Recreation held a Master Plan process for Timberlake Neighborhood Park, which was later renamed Hill Street Park. The process evolved through five public meetings in which citizens learned about the park site, provided input on visions and goals the project, determined the preferred park amenities, and commented on conceptual plans. Participants of the master planning process indicated that construction of the neighborhood center was their priority. A draft plan was then presented to the Northeast CAC for comment prior to its review by the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board. The final Master Plan was adopted by City Council in 2007.

The approved concept was focused on creating a nature-oriented, walkable, and educational neighborhood park.

Construction of the neighborhood center, as the first phase of the park development, was complete at the end of 2012. The 4,000sf center includes a large multipurpose room, an activity room, staff office and conference room, a kitchen and support spaces. Exterior features include a playground and a sheltered outdoor classroom with wireless access. Future phase will include a park-wide trail system and nature play elements

Main sustainable elements include a green roof, 16-SEER heat pumps, demand ventilation with CO2 monitoring/controls, occupancy sensors on the high-efficient light fixtures, stormwater infiltration conveyance swales to reduce runoff rate and pollutants, and the use of on-site excavated material for site features such as the retaining walls.

Grand Reopening of New Carousel House at John Chavis Memorial Park April 20, 2013

On a crisp Spring afternoon under a blue sky of fluffy clouds, over 100 people gathered to share in the grand re-opening of the fully restored historic Allan Herschell carousel in its new carousel house. The early 1900's carousel has called John Chavis Memorial Park home since it



opened 75 years ago. Dr. Helen Chavis Orthow spoke to the educator role her ancestor, John Chavis, played within the Raleigh community and to the regional importance of John Chavis Memorial Park to African-Americans in the southeast during segregation. The dedication ceremony was followed by free carousel rides, live music, food and activities including an opportunity for the community to provide input on a vision statement for the park's revised master plan.

Construction of the new carousel house and associated site work to incorporate the new building into the landscape took a little over a year but was a long time in planning. Funds were allocated in 2006 after the citizens approved a 2003 Park Bond. Significant public participation occurred before City Council approved moving the project forward. Also included in the project was renovation of the community center entry stairs and planters, ADA upgrades at both entrances, WiFi upgrades, extensive landscaping, site furnishings,

Dedications and Groundbreakings

and restoration of the Allan Herschell carousel and the Wurlitzer 146A Band Organ. The carousel is open seven days a week giving patrons lots of opportunity to ride the historic carousel and see the Downtown Raleigh skyline from a new perspective!

Neuse River Trail Dedication April 25, 2013

Twenty miles of the Neuse River Trail were officially opened to the public. Under a warm afternoon sun, several hundred people gathered at Anderson Point Park to celebrate the completion of this significant greenway trail project that extends from Horseshoe Farm Park to the Wake/Johnston County Line. This section of the Neuse River Trail connects to an existing trail in Johnston County making the total length of the trail 24 miles.

Seven bridges were included in the project—connecting communities, people, and creating partnerships.

Residents of Wake Forest, Knightdale, Wake County, Clayton, and Raleigh are now connected. Over

a time of four years partnerships have been forged with these communities and with North Carolina Department of Transportation. Wake County, NCDOT,



Wake Forest, and Knightdale have contributed over \$15 million to partner with the city in the \$32 million project.

Two of the bridges are magnificent suspension bridges. These bridges allowed the city to save over \$1.0 million and minimize impacts to sensitive natural areas. One bridge is located adjacent to Louisburg Road near the Mitchell Mill Road intersection. The second bridge is located at the Skycrest Road crossing of the Neuse River.

The Neuse River Trail will extend from Falls Lake Dam to Clayton next year after the final section of the trail is completed. This section is located between the WRAL soccer complex and Louisburg Road. The total trail length will then be approximately 32 miles.



Raleigh Arts

During FY 12-13 the office of Raleigh Arts and members of the Raleigh Arts Commission and Public Art and Design Board collaborated with colleagues in the Parks and Recreation Department and City staff to advance six core Raleigh Arts programs.

Grants: Through the Commission's Arts Grant Program, the City invested \$1,500,260 with 33 non-profit organizations to ensure that residents have the opportunity to learn about, participate in and enjoy the arts. The funding provided support for arts education programs such as the Community Music School, which provides music education for children from economically disadvantaged situations; support for performances such as Carolina Ballet's ever-popular Nutcracker; and A Christmas Carol produced annually by Theatre in the Park; visual art exhibits and artist development education at Artspace and the Visual Art Exchange; and support for festivals like First Night Raleigh, SPARKcon and La Fiesta del Pueblo. The Arts Grant Program also added an educational component this year with a public presentation and workshop on innovation in the arts by national expert and EmcArts founder Richard Evans.

Public Art/Municipal Art Collection: Since the installation of Vega Metal's Water Droplets at the Buffaloe Road Aquatic Center, the public art program now has four Half-Percent for Art projects underway including a whimsical interactive artwork by Chris Fennell at Halifax Park; a community arts-based installation by Matt McConnell, Lee Cherry and Marc Russo at Wilder's Grove Solid Waste Facility; a group of large-scale sculptures by Pete Beeman at the Northeast Remote Operations Center; and an artist selection panel has been convened to choose an artist for the Southeast Raleigh Tennis Center at Barwell Road Park. The temporary public art project Before I Die... debuted at last September's SPARKcon arts festival, and the highly popular Art-On-The-Move project returned for a fourth year at Artsplosure with dynamic art emblazoned on the sides of buses as well as the addition of a large-scale mural on the walls of the Moore Square Transit Station.

Raleigh Arts

Block/Block2 Exhibitions: Twelve local and regional artists were featured in five exhibits at the Block Gallery in the Raleigh Municipal Building, and five video artists screened work at Block2, which moved from the Urban Design Center to Block Gallery. Our annual employee and family show featured the work of 60 talented participants from Wake County and the City of Raleigh governments. As part of an initiative to create public awareness of the city's art programs, three installations of the cases in Block Gallery featured works of art by students and instructors at the Sertoma and Pullen Arts centers.

Awards and Recognitions: In October two individuals, Laura Raynor and Nancy Lambert, and two organizations, the Triangle Philharmonic and the Parker Poe law firm, were awarded the Raleigh Arts Commission Medals of Arts. Renown children's literature author John Claude Bemis was designated the fifth Piedmont Laureate to promote literature in the region. The Gifts of Gold Visual Art celebration, as part of National Youth Art Month in Raleigh, at Memorial Auditorium, honored more than 100 schoolchildren for artistic excellence.

Arts Centers: The Pullen and Sertoma Arts Centers increased and modified classes in response to citizen requests; developed a very successful Fall Arts Fair which engaged both artists and community at Pullen Park; hosted numerous gallery shows, including the book-a-week exhibit with 104 handmade books at Pullen; presented a performance by the Raleigh Children's Orchestra at Sertoma; and provided arts activities for city events throughout Raleigh.

Community Outreach and Education: the Raleigh Arts Commission contracted with Americans for the Arts (AFTA) to measure the economic impact of the nonprofit arts and culture industry in Raleigh. The resulting study reports that in 2010 total spending by Raleigh non-profit arts and culture organizations and their audiences reached \$143 million and supported about 5,700 full-time equivalent jobs, a resounding affirmation of the breadth of economic impact of the arts in our community.



Natural Resources

2012 was an exciting year for the Natural Resources team as they prepared for facility growth at Annie Louise Wilkerson, MD Nature Preserve Park and Lake Johnson Park as well as identifying department assets and resources needed



to address action items identified from the Nature Preserve Task Force Report. This report and subsequent City Council action created a new park classification, Nature Preserves. This new classification requires a fundamental and philosophical shift in park management and operations. As resources become available over the next few years, the Natural Resource team will grow comprehensive flora and fauna inventories for the nature preserves in order to conserve these unique spaces.



The program area continues to facilitate citizens of all age's access to the outdoors. Free Nature Play Days drew families to Annie Louise Wilkerson, MD Nature Preserve Park for imaginative play in a natural setting such as fort building and mud pie making. Nature education programs were provided for 59 school groups servicing nearly 6,000 children. Grandparent/grandchild activities and backyard birding programs were offered to senior adults in the community.

An innovative program with the Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence's Research Educator Exchange Forum was hosted at the Walnut Creek Wetland Center. The "Creeks to Coast" free workshop fostered partnership development between scientists and local STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) educators. The workshop allowed scientists to present their research to local teachers in order to foster the educational connections between our upstream environment and the ocean.



Neighborhood Quality



Government alone cannot resolve community issues. The mission of Community Oriented Government is to create strong partnerships in government, neighborhood organizations, business associations, local schools, public service agencies, and other community partners to address issues that impact the quality of life in the Capital City. The absolute mission is to establish a team of city department representatives who promote ownership and solutions to complex community issues, to create sustainable solutions for community concerns, and to establish proactive measures to prevent community problems.

Community-Oriented Government rests on the philosophy that the people within their jurisdiction and their public servants must work together as partners toward the goal of enhancing the overall quality of life in the community. The philosophy requires a management style and organizational culture that promotes mutual trust and interaction among departments and with the community. It must also be structured to provide decentralized, personalized, and equitable service to all areas of the jurisdiction, being tailored to specific needs.

Neighborhood Quality (continued)

The City is divided into two COG areas with three districts in each area. There are two COG teams one for the Southern districts and one for the Northern districts. The COG districts are comprised and fall in line with the RPD districts. This team is also comprised of other city departments. The COG team is comprised of representatives from various city departments who are charged with the mission of tailoring city services to meet the unique needs of Raleigh neighborhoods.

Some of those concerns that have been addressed over the past year are public safety, youth programs, graffiti removal, community events, public meetings for input for specific areas, street concerns, zoning, public sewer issues, neighborhood clean ups, housing that was condemned and needing removal, inspection issues for housing to improve the quality of neighborhoods, transit concerns in downtown area, and overall improvements for the quality of life for Raleigh residents. By working together the City of Raleigh has been able to accomplish many goals and objectives and respond more quickly to public concerns.



Healthy Living



This year the Healthy Living Committee continued with its mission to educate and provide healthy living opportunities focusing on wellness, nutrition and physical activity. Some of the accomplishments this year were:

- All City of Raleigh sponsored Halloween events provided healthy options. Staff were asked to think outside the trick or treat bag and offer other “treats” such as stickers, pencils, healthy snacks and other small prizes.
- The department began incorporating energizers into meetings, classes and trainings to show staff and patrons how easy it is to get moving even when you are in meetings all day.
- This year all City sponsored egg hunts included healthy treats only. The eggs were stuffed with pretzels, goldfish crackers, crayons, bunny whistles and other small prizes. Some of the eggs this year were even earth healthy. Eco eggs are plant versus petroleum-based eggs made in the USA. They are BPA free, have 100% renewable content, and are fully compostable after use.
- The committee used guidelines by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation to determine the beverage vending options at our facilities. The goal was to encourage healthy choices while still giving patrons some options.
- A healthy snack plan was included in Leisure Ledger, Summer Camp brochure and distributed through athletic teams and leagues to educate patrons on healthy choices for snack packing and even included a cost comparison to show how eating healthy doesn’t have to cost more.

Environment and Sustainability



In 2012 the Parks and Recreation Department spearheaded an effort to publish a web based dashboard for publicly accessible electric vehicle charging stations on the City of Raleigh website. The Department partnered with the City of Raleigh Office of Sustainability and Avelogix, a software developer based in Charlotte, NC to provide the real time dashboard. The goal of the Periscope dashboard is to provide education to citizens on the usage history and availability of electric vehicle charging stations throughout the City of Raleigh. The dashboard viewlet reflects 18 public charging stations for electric vehicles and another 11 charging stations for City fleet vehicles that were installed between November 2010 and December 2011. Three stations were selected for installation at Optimist, Walnut Creek Wetlands and Jaycee Park utilizing grant funding. One additional station was funded for installation by the Parks and Recreation Department at the Annie Louise Wilkerson, MD Nature Preserve. The dashboard meets the City Council's goals for open data and provides the City of Raleigh and its Citizens with a tool to understand how the stations are utilized and what stations are available. The electric vehicle charging station program in Parks will serve to meet the growing needs of Park patrons as electric vehicle usage continues to grow. Currently there is no fee to charge at the stations.

Volunteers



Over the past year the department was pleased to have over 9,000 volunteers who gave 158,710 hours at a value of \$3,390,045. These volunteers included individuals, families, civic clubs, students, churches, schools, universities, garden clubs, scouts, and local businesses.

Corporate volunteers from the following businesses assisted with various park projects: AT&T, Nationwide, Clark Nexsen, Target, Foresters Insurance, Dimension Data, Allscripts, Marriott, Starbucks, The North Face, Johnson Controls, Whole Foods, Wasser Media Group, Eaton Corporation. Corporate volunteers assisted with park projects at 60 different parks and greenways throughout the City. The park projects included playground renovations, removal of invasives, mulching, litter pick up, painting, tree planting, and landscaping.

The Department also utilizes volunteers to enhance city parks and greenways through the Adopt-A-Park Program. Currently 75 different individuals and groups

Volunteers (continued)

have adopted various parks and greenways throughout the city. The program is structured to ensure the success of each volunteer project by establishing project parameters and detailing responsibilities of both the volunteer and department.

Volunteers are extremely valuable to the department's Recreation programs as athletic coaches for baseball, basketball, football, lacrosse, in-line hockey, softball, swimming, tennis, etc. Volunteers also assist with department special events, the Specialized Recreation Services program, the ESL program, Senior Adult program, Aquatics, Nature and Arts Programs. The City Museum, Historic properties, Nature Preserves and NeighborWoods utilize volunteers for their programs.

Through the efforts of outstanding volunteers and City staff, the Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department can continue its fine tradition of providing quality leisure services to citizens of all ages.



Council Members and Parks Greenway Advisory Board Members

Raleigh City Council*

Mayor: Nancy
McFarlane
Russ Stephenson
Mary Ann Baldwin
Randall Stagner
John Odom
Eugene Weeks
Thomas Crowder
Bonner Gaylord

Arts Commission Members*

Joanne Casey
Joe Cebina
Jason Craighead
Linda Dallas
Gene Davis
Diane Kuehn
Clyde Lundy
Nancy Novell
Sarah Powers
Bob Rankin
Andy Martin
Ann Tharrington

**at time of printing*

Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board Members*

Chair – Mark Turner
Richard Bostic
Jay Chaudhuri
Steve Hepler
Jennifer Hoverstad
Lorenzo Jackson
Rodger Koopman
Thomas Moore
Robert Putze
Scott Reston
Kevin Seymour
Amy Simes
Kimberly Siran
Michael Surasky
Johnny Tillett





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